



THE GATEWAY TO

MYSTICAL TRANCE

AND MYRIAD NATURE

VISITORS GUIDE

Introduction

- the holiday playground for exciting fun, adventure and myriad nature.



**'Welcome and
Selamat Datang to
JOHOR Darul Ta'zim'**

The state of Johor lies at the southern most part of Malaysia. This southern gateway to Malaysia covering an area of 19,984 sq km, is the second largest state in West Malaysia.

The history of early Johor is a chronicle of glory and prosperity during the days when gambier and black pepper was a thriving business.

To the Siamese, Johor is 'Gangganu' or 'Treasured Stones'. It was also once known as the 'End of the Land' as it occupies the tail portion of mainland Asia. Its present name, Johor, is derived from an Arabic word 'Jauhar' which means Precious Stones.

Johor is made up of eight districts - Johor Bahru, Pontian, Batu Pahat, Muar, Mersing, Kota Tinggi, Kluang and Segamat. Each district exudes its own special charms adorned by pineapple, rubber, coconut and oil palm plantations, tranquil kampungs, quaint fishing villages and green forest.



Colourful Culture

With a population of about 2.3 million, comprising of a harmonious multi-ethnic mix of Malays - some, descendents of the Bugis and Javanese, Chinese, Indian and others, promises a colourful potpourri of culture traditions. Most are based on the various religions practices, beliefs and traditions influencing the costumes, festivals, ceremonies and rituals. Such provides many throbbing excitement and colourful insight.



The 'Kuda Kepang' dance is unique to Johor and is spun from tales of Islamic heroes. This mystical dance is believed to

be brought into Johor by the Javanese in the early 19th century.

Another famous performance is 'Ghazal' music which is also distinctly Johorean and played on violin and rebana (drums). Both are usually performed regularly during cultural shows and weddings.



Sumptuous Fares



Eating out in Johor is always enjoyable since you can sample wide variety of reasonably priced international dishes. However, your holiday is incomplete if you shy away from savouring the sumptuous local dishes.

Johor Bahru is popular for fresh seafood, especially oysters, prawns, crabs, cuttlefish, fishes and sea cucumber.



The Laksa Johor and Lontong, both served in spicy coconut milk gravy are two very popular Johor specialities not to be missed besides the local kuihs, satay, mee rebus, soto, rojak, ais kacang and nasi lemak.



Kukup is the 'Hong Kong' of the Straits of Johor. This fishing village, with most of the houses built on stilt, is famous for its fresh seafood.

Muar is another picturesque town popular for its delicious and inexpensive foodstalls and restaurants. In the evening, may it be in Johor Bahru or other outskirt towns, check out the stalls for endless variety of dishes to choose.



Shopping Excitement

Shopping in Johor Bahru can be fun and budget-friendly. The many handicrafts centres provide interesting and tempting items suitable for souvenirs and gifts.

Plan your visit to include the Johor Craft Village along the Johor Bahru-Kota Tinggi road for fine export quality crafts and ceramic items, JARO (Johor Rehabilitation Organisation) shop at Jalan Sungai Cat, the Aw Pottery at Ayer Hitam and the Johor Crafttown Centre at Jalan Skudai.



The modern and extensive shopping complex at Plaza Pelangi, Tun Abdul Razak Complex, Plaza Kota Raya, Kompleks Lien Hoe and Kompleks Pusat Bandar Pasir Gudang will satisfy your whims and fancies. For additional shopping fun, try the many pre-war shop houses for curios and mementoes.

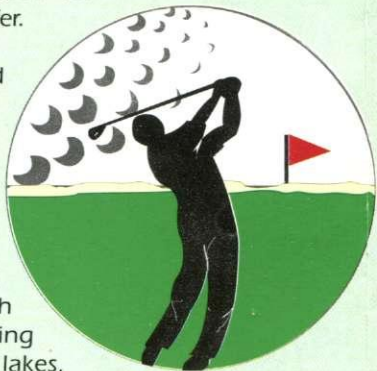


Golfing Experience



Johor is reputed to have the largest number of golf courses and the most challenging courses in the country. Its golf courses range from from a 9-hole course to the unrivalled 54-hole course that holds enough challenges for a top professional player as well as relaxation for the casual golfer.

The grand panorama of gentle rolling hills, serene ambience and magnificent natural landscape with its interesting blend of lakes, waterways and clusters of palms are inspiring and soothing to the golfer.



Johor Bahru Attractions

Johor Bahru, the state capital is connected to Singapore by road and rail via a modern 1,056m long causeway.



Johor Bahru boasts of myriad landmarks such as The Grand Palace with its distinct Anglo-Malay architecture and houses the museum where priceless treasures of the Royal Collection are showcased.



Another interesting place to visit is the Sultan Abu Bakar Mosque set atop a hill and unveiling a breathtaking view of the Straits of Johor. The mosque is said to be among the finest in the country.

Within the vicinity of Johor Bahru are the Royal Mausoleum, Istana Bukit Serene, Bangunan Sultan Ibrahim, Dataran Bandaraya, Johor Zoo, Johor Art Gallery, and MAWAR Complex.



Stop at the Lido beach for the various aquatic pleasures like canoeing and sailing.



Popular out-of-town attractions includes the spectacular Kota Tinggi Waterfalls located 56 km north of Johor Bahru which is just the place for swimming in the tropical heat and Johor Lama - a small village on the banks of the Johor River, that was once the seat of the Johor Sultanate.

Towards the south-west of the peninsula, about 80 km from Johor Bahru is Desaru, the 'village of casuarinas'.



Desaru and the nearby Teluk Rumania boast of pristine beaches complete with various recreational facilities such as a 18-hole golf course and horse riding besides watersports activities that includes jet ski, sailing and canoeing. There are various resorts and chalets for hire. A visit to the scenic fishing villages at Penyabong will provide yet another pretty sight to behold.

For the lovers of pottery and ceramic crafts, check out the pottery town of Ayer Hitam which has long been a favourite with both local and foreign tourists. It is a haven for reasonably priced and quality porcelain, stoneware and earthenware.



Tranquil Wilderness

For the nature lovers, Johor promises visitors with its lush legendary rainforest, unspoilt wilderness and its spectacular flora and fauna.

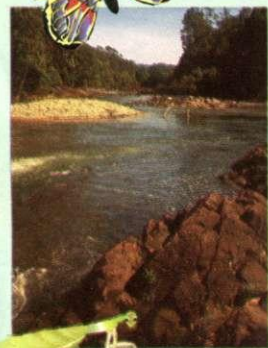
Endau-Rompin Park located on the Johor-Pahang border is popular with conservationist and nature lovers. This two and a half century old extensive lowland forest is home to several rare and endangered species including the two-horned rhinoceros. Here you can also find the spectacular *Livistona Endauensis* fan palms.



Two famous waterfalls found here are the Buaya Sangkut and Upeh Guling. Entry permits are required so visitors has to contact Perbadanan Taman Negara Johor Tel: 07-2237471 for further information.



Other Forest Reserve are located at Panti, Gunung Belumut, Gunung Ledang, Gunung Arong, Gunung Lambak and Gunung Pulai. These lush greenery and ravishing wilderness is a haven for camping, waterfall picnics and mountain climbing. Many of these spot offers basic amenities that includes camping ground, temporary shed, toilets, changing room and car park.



Mesmerising Island



Catch the golden sunrise, clear emerald blue sea and miles of golden sandy palm-fringed beaches. Dive underwater for the mesmerising coral gardens and thriving marine lifes. Welcome to the islands of Johor.

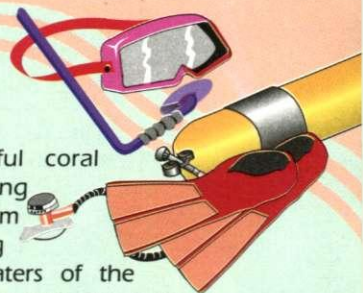


Johor has beautiful coral islands of glistening beaches and tall palm trees overlooking the clear, blue waters of the South China Sea. The main lure is the rich marine life and spectacular coral reefs. These islands are accessible by boat via Mersing (138 km from Johor Bahru), Tanjung Sedili and Tanjung Leman.

The best of these islands are Pulau Rawa, Pulau Besar, Pulau Sibul, Pulau Tengah, Pulau Tinggi, Pulau Pemanggil and Pulau Aur.

These islands offers a host of aqua activities like fishing, skin-diving, scuba-diving, snorkelling, lobster hunting, underwater photography, wind surfing and boating. Pulau Tengah was gazetted as a marine park due to the abundant marine life and rare species of fish and corals. Giant leatherback turtles come ashore to lay eggs yearly.

Come visit Johor and be greeted by the charming old-fashioned local hospitality who awaits your visit with their infectious smiles and disarming personalities.



GETTING TO JOHOR

Malaysia Airlines flies to Senai Airport in Johor Bahru from Kuala Lumpur, Kota Kinabalu and Kuching. Outstation taxis and buses run trips from Melaka, Kuala Lumpur and other major towns to Johor Bahru. Train services are also available from Kuala Lumpur and Singapore. Ferrylink provides a new way to travel between Singapore and Malaysia. It operates between Changi Point and Tanjung Belungkor.



For further information, please contact

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